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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/566,253	01/30/2006	Yukihiko Saeki	285327US0PCT	5754
22850	7590	05/23/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			RAE, CHARLESWORTH E	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1614		
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		05/23/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/566,253	SAEKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Charleswort Rae	1614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-34 are currently pending in this application and are the subject of the Office action.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

- I. Claims 1-4, 13-16 and 29-34, drawn to a method of inhibiting OPN production comprising an effective amount of a pyridazine derivative of formula I or a derivative thereof, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. If this Group is elected, then the below Summarized Species Election is also required. If this Group is elected, then the below Summarized Species Election is also required.
- II. Claims 5-8, and 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, drawn to an OPN production inhibitor comprising as an active ingredient a pyridazine derivative of formula I. If this Group is elected, then the below Summarized Species Election is also required.
- III. Claims 9, 10, 11, 12, 17-20, drawn to a preventive and therapeutic agent for a disease resulting from enhanced OPN production comprising a

pyridazine compound of formula I. If this Group is elected, then the below Summarized Species Election is also required.

Inventions I-III as represented above relate to a general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they share the same or corresponding technical features i.e. pyridazine derivative OPN production inhibitor. The inventions lack unity, however, as the common technical feature is known in the art (Ohkuchi et al., US Patent 6,348,468 B1, column 2, line 19 to column 3, line 10 and column 6, lines 11-30). For example, Ohkuchi et al. disclose 5,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-ethyl-2H-pyridazin-3-one (column 6, lines 12-13). Thus, the requirement is proper as the inventions represented above as Groups I-III lack unity of invention under PCT Rule 13.1. It is noted that claims 13-20 are presented as "use" claims, which may reasonably be viewed as product claims.

Applicant is required to elect a single invention for examination purposes.

Species Election regarding Groups I-III

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic inventions. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. For example, the generic inventions encompass a heterogenous group of known diseases/conditions in which increases in blood or tissue OPN are connected include, for example, post-PTCA, kidney disease, tuberculosis, liver disease, and various cancers (see specification, page 2, lines 3-18). Method of treatments comprising administering compounds of formula I would reasonably exhibit different

pharmaceutical/ therapeutic effects depending on the specific target condition/disease. To the extent that these diseases represent different patient populations and different etiologies, methods of treating/preventing these different diseases with the compositions encompassed by the generic inventions would reasonably be expected to result in different therapeutic outcomes. Thus, these disease species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single condition connected with OPN production for examination purposes e.g. colorectal cancer (see claim 33).

Additional Species Election regarding Groups I-III

This application encompasses additional species of the generic inventions. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. For example, the generic inventions encompass multiple compounds of general formula I represented by the various optional groups (e.g. A, R1, R2, R3, and X). Each compound species represent a different chemical entity and reasonably exhibit different/varying pharmaceutical/therapeutic characteristics. The administration of compositions comprising these different compounds would reasonably exhibit different therapeutic effects when administered to an individual or different individuals having different diseases. Thus, these species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single composition for examination purposes wherein the OPN **inhibitor** compound species is specifically provided e.g. 5,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-ethyl-2H-pyridazin-3-one.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to the additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species (MPEP 809.02(a)). Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 21, 25, and 29, are considered generic to the above species.

Inventorship Notice

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims.

Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder.

All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Inventorship Notice

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charlesworth Rae whose telephone number is 571-272-6029. The examiner can normally be reached between 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel, can be reached at 571-272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 800-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the

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automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

12 May 2007
CER

BRIAN-YONG S. KWON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian-Yong S. Kwon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the "n" in "Yong" across the page.